Promotion of Tourism and Culture in Assam

731. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest projects taken by Ministry of Tourism and Culture for promoting tourism and culture in Assam, district-wise information;

(b) the details of funds accordingly released; and

(c) what new proposals have been planned for the promotion of tourism and culture in the State in the coming Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest/ centres is primarily undertaken by the State/UT Governments themselves. However, the Department of Tourism, Govt, of India provides funds for the identified projects in consultation with the States/Union Territories every year. During 2001 -2002, the following projects were sanctioned/funds released:

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No	Name of the project	Sanctioned	Released
1.	Luxury tourist vessel between Kaziranga and Guwahati	110.00	99.34
2.	Construction of Crafts Village at Guwahati	145.00	43.50
3.	Rangoli Festival	2.25	1.62
4.	Tea Festival	2.25	1.62
5.	Eco-Tourism at Manas	45.00	0.10
6.	Eco-Tourism at Bhalukpung	45.00	13.50
7.	Advertisement support	48.00	24.00

(c) During the 10th Five Year Plan the Department of Tourism, Govt, of India proposes to identify six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis and develop them to international standards. These circuits will be finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Government of India Departments. In addition to this it is proposed to identify one major

destination in each State/Union Territory for overall development each year.

Short Fall in Gratuity Funds in ITDC Hotels

732. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 11 Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) Hotels that have been privatized, a shortfall of Rs.23 crores in their gratuity funds have been found;

(b) if so, whether this gratuity payments are proposed to be made from disinvestment proceeds;

(c) whether it would be legal to pay gratuity from dis-investment proceeds; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The status of corporate gratuity fund including all Hotels/Duty Free Shops and allied businesses of ITDC is as under:

{Rs. in Crores)

Particulars	As on 31.03.2001	As on 31.03.2002 (Prov.)
Gratuity provision .	32.28	31.61
Fund Available with LIC	20.23	16.80
Shortfall	12.05	14.81

In respect of three hotels handed over during the current financial year so far, the VRS including gratuity has been obtained upfront from the bidders out of the bid amount.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) All dues would be cleared.